



# Wright-Dunbar Heritage News



Flight # 30 of Wright Flyer II August, 1904 (Wright State University archive photo).

## Looking ahead into 2004

Dayton's Centennial of Flight Celebration is, in many ways, only just beginning. 2003 is now in the history books, but it brought to Dayton a national spotlight and created a tremendous legacy of new facilities, programming, partnerships, and a national park. We are now challenged to continue the momentum that the community so successfully created.

Numerous projects confirm that the momentum is continuing. Carillon Historical Park, with support from the Aviation Heritage Foundation, Wright-Dunbar, Inc, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Ohio Historical Society, and Rhythm and Shoes, is organizing the 2004 *Time Flies* programs. The Wright Cycle Company building is currently undergoing renovation and is scheduled to re-open this summer with new exhibits. The park is also partnering with Wright-Dunbar, Inc. (WDI) to have WDI take the lead in developing three new parking lots in the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood. These lots will fill a crucial void by providing sufficient parking for park visitors, for future businesses, and will continue the visual improvement of the neighborhood.

Strong community and congressional support has also provided funding this year to produce a new orientation film for

the park, complete the park's wayside exhibit plan, and complete the planning for the restoration/rehabilitation of 26 South Williams Street (located next to The Wright Cycle Company building). Beyond 2004, the community is expressing strong support for additional park programs and projects. Particularly important and high on the list is the proposal to establish a National Aviation Heritage Area. The bill, introduced by Rep. Hobson in the House of Representatives and by Sen. DeWine in the Senate, passed the House in November and will come up for consideration in the Senate later this year. The Heritage Area offers an important opportunity to bring national attention to the area's aviation assets, while also promoting and marketing those assets.

The Dayton community showed remarkable support for the park up to and throughout the Centennial Celebration, and now, at this crucial juncture, the community continues to highlight the importance of the area's aviation heritage. It is my belief that next year we will once again be able to look back and say that 2004 was another great year in the park's history, and that, like the Wright brothers' first flight, 2003 marked the beginning of a great chapter in Dayton's history.

Lawrence Blake -- Park Superintendent

### 2004 Speaker Series

#### Engineers Club

110 East Monument Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45402

#### Lester A. Reingold

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm

*Triumph and Tragedy:  
Commemorating the  
Wright Legacy and  
Investigating the  
Shuttle Columbia Accident*

#### Dr. Tom Crouch

Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm

*Huffman Prairie Flying Field*

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# The Wright Brothers Manufactured Bicycles

To many Wright brothers enthusiasts, this is far from news.

However, many are just beginning to learn there was more to the Wright brothers than flying! In 1892, the Wright brothers opened their first bicycle shop and by 1895, while located at 22 South Williams



1900 Men's Van Cleve Bicycle at Carillon HP

Street, the brothers began manufacturing their own brand of bicycles. There are five known original Wright brothers' bicycles still in existence. Of the five, three are here in Dayton.

## Carillon Historical Park

On display at Carillon Historical Park, the original 1900 Men's Van Cleve bicycle is equipped with a replica wind-foil testing device. Frank W. Miller, a former Dayton Schools Superintendent, who rode it to his teaching position at Steele High School, owned the bicycle. In the 1940s when Orville worked closely with Col. Deeds on the exhibits for Wright Hall (now part of the Wright Brothers Aviation Center), there was much discussion about what to exhibit in the hall besides the 1905 Wright Flyer III. A letter dated September 16, 1948, to Mrs. Luther H. Anderson (mother of Frank W Miller's granddaughter, Anne Anderson Young Kinsman, who loaned the bicycle to Carillon) from Carl Beust, head of the Patent Department, The National Cash Register Co., reveals the story behind the preservation of this bicycle.

Mr. Beust recalls: *"I remember the bicycle very well. I graduated from Steele High School in 1903 and was one of your father's pupils, and I remember very clearly his riding the bicycle back and forth to and from school."* He went on to state that *"It was his [Orville's] recollection that they had sold a bicycle to your father, and Mr. Wright suggested that possibly arrangements might be made to get it for display."*

Later, a replica wind foil testing device was built, based in part on Wilbur's letter to Octave Chanute (October 6, 1901). In the letter, he described the device and its exact measurements. The bicycle as modified with the device is on display in the *John W. Berry, Sr.* Wright Brothers Aviation Center.

## 1901 Men's Van Cleve

Ralph and Robert Kuhlman donated Carillon's second Van Cleve in memory of their father, Edward Kuhlman. A most interesting part of this donation is the inclusion of the original receipt made out to Edward Kuhlman from The Wright Cycle Company. This receipt, dated September 17, 1901, and signed by Wilbur Wright, shows he paid \$30.75 for the Van Cleve bicycle. This Van Cleve is on display in the replica of 1127 West Third Street, The Wright Cycle Company, at the Wright Brothers Aviation Center.

## United States Air Force Museum

This Wright brothers' Ladies' Van Cleve Bicycle was built or pre-ordered in 1895. Mrs. Flo Turner Martin, mother-in-law to donor Mrs. Eula Baker, purchased the bicycle from Wilbur Wright for \$65.00. It came equipped with a bell and lamp. The lamp is now on loan to the National Park Service to display in The Wright Cycle Company building at 22 South Williams Street. This is the building in which the bicycle was built and the lamp installed.

The original tires, patented under Morgan & Wright, were removed and placed in storage in May 1970. New tires donated by Mr. H. M. Huffman, Jr. of Dayton replaced the original tires. This bicycle was permanently donated to the U.S. Air Force Museum by Eula and Harvey Baker of New Carlisle, Ohio in 1974. The museum hopes to return the bicycle to its Early Years gallery in the next six months.

## Henry Ford Museum

In addition to the three bicycles in Dayton, another Van Cleve and the sole surviving St. Clair model are part of the collection of The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. The St. Clair is currently on loan to the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum for its Wright brothers' exhibition.

## Connections

These bicycles are direct connections to two men who, in the face of many doubters, would solve the riddle of manned, powered, heavier-than-air flight. Nevertheless, before they accomplished all this, they taught themselves the skills needed to sell, repair and manufacture bicycles. Their work focused on quality, not quantity. It is simply amazing that one of the bicycles built at 22 South Williams

still exists and will soon be back in public view at the U.S. Air Force Museum. Two others are on display just three miles from the only remaining Wright brothers bicycle shop ... take the time to rediscover these connections to our collective past ... right here in Dayton!

Arthur Currence



# Time Flies Returns for Second Season

*Time Flies* returns to Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in 2004! Living history, theater, and the special performances that marked one of the highlights of Dayton's Centennial Celebration will return during 2004 to all four units of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park: the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center; Paul

Laurence Dunbar State Memorial; Huffman Prairie Flying Field; and Carillon Historical Park which includes the *John W. Berry, Sr.* Wright Brothers Aviation Center.

*Time Flies 2004: A Living History Experience* will return with the successful elements from 2003, including the



Young aviators take off with *Time Flies*



*Time Flies'* Orville Wright demonstrates a flying toy given to him by his father when he was 7 years old.

addition of new performances that will enrich the program. Step back in time to experience Dayton, Ohio in 1904, and learn of Wilbur and Orville Wright's important progress in unraveling the mysteries of practical flight.

Specific components of *Time Flies* will occur on the following dates and locations: May 7-8 at Huffman Prairie Flying Field; June 8-20 at Carillon Historical Park; June 25-27 at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial; and September 23-26 at Huffman Prairie Flying Field. Please check with park staff at (937) 225-7705 for further information.

## Carillon Park Hosts the Dedication of the Bishop's Boys, a Painting by Dean Mosher

Few people know that Wilbur and Orville Wright flew together only once in their entire lives. Their father, Bishop Milton Wright, had asked them never to fly together and they respected his wishes. However, on May 25, 1910, he released them from that promise. Not only did the two brothers fly together that day, but one of them also took Bishop Wright for a ride.

Dean Mosher has documented this flight made by the Wright brothers over Huffman Prairie Flying Field in Ohio in a carefully researched eight-foot by ten-foot painting. The Ohio Bicentennial Commission and Inventing Flight commissioned Mosher to do the painting as part of his "Great Moments in History"



*The Bishop's Boys*

series. The U.S. Naval Academy and several National Park sites exhibit other paintings by Mosher.

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park owns the painting, and placed it on loan to Carillon Historical Park. Dedication of the painting took place Friday, April 16, at the Kettering Family Education Center at Carillon Historical Park.

Signed, numbered prints as part of a limited edition are available at both of the National Park's bookstores and Carillon Historical Park. The cost for an unframed print is \$75.

# Centennial Continues with Spring & Summer 2004 Activities

This year, The Wright Cycle Company building at 22 South Williams Street is undergoing a major interior renovation of the first floor and the installation of new exhibits.

When the building re-opens to the public in June, visitors will learn about the Wrights' bicycle business and how the bicycle served as a natural transition to flight.

Besides the opportunity to tour the various park exhibits, a variety of ranger led programs and talks are scheduled for this summer. Plans call for Wright-Dunbar Neighborhood Walking Tours at 10:00 am Saturday and Sunday, May 1 through May 23 and September 11 through 26, and daily May 29 through September 6. Entitled "A Community's Heritage," the walking tour offers information and insights on historic structures and events in the vicinity of The Wright Cycle Company building at 22 South Williams Street. The buildings, such as the Hoover Block, Lorin Wright's home, the home of



Park Ranger Mandy Murray gives a tour of historic Wright-Dunbar neighborhood.

Ed Sines, and the Gem City Ice Cream Building at 1005 West Third St. (location of the Wrights' first bicycle shop) provide direct links to Orville and Wilbur Wright. Other structures, such as the former



7 Hawthorn Street

YMCA Building and the Mallory House, contribute to the vibrant history of the neighborhood in which the Wrights and Paul Laurence Dunbar lived and worked. These structures and the stories presented on the walks give visitors a sense of the changing character of the neighborhood over time and the important role the neighborhood played in the lives of these three distinguished men.

In addition, on the same calendar schedule at 2:00 pm, rangers will present programs on select topics at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. These programs may emphasize the writing of Paul Laurence Dunbar or his connections to the Wrights. Programs may look at the significance of the bicycle to urban America and two young American men

who were getting their feet wet in business. Rangers may explore the work of the Wrights in the print business, their connection to community, their family relationships, or the path of their inspiration. And, of course, there will be programs dealing with flight and the Wrights' role in the evolving science.

For information about programs offered at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center and the Flying Field, go to page 9.

For up to date information on the daily tours and programs, call the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center at 937.225.7705 or the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center at 937.425.0008.

For group visits to The Wright Cycle Company building, Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, the Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center, please contact the following individuals:

#### General Groups

Julia Frasure  
937.425.0008  
julia\_frasure@nps.gov

#### Educational Groups

Judi Hart  
937.225.7726, ext 222  
judi\_hart@nps.gov

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## Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial

On Memorial Day 2004 at noon, the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial officially opens for the 2004 summer season. The ribbon cutting ceremony at the door of the Dunbar House will mark the beginning of the Memorial's 66<sup>th</sup> year open to the public. A celebration follows, ending at 4:00 PM. All five buildings on the two-acre city property will be open and filled with activities that will surely

delight everyone. Plan now to attend the opening for Summer 2004!

Throughout the Summer of 2004, several exciting programs are scheduled to take place at the Dunbar Memorial that should not be missed. On June 27, there will be a very special Commemorative Birthday Dinner. Tickets for the dinner will be \$50.00 per person.

Summer hours for visiting the Dunbar Memorial will be Wednesday through Saturday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday 12:00 to 4:30 pm. The cost for a guided tour is \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 per student. Children five years and under are admitted free.

LaVerne Sci

# Aviation Theme Study Update

Recognizing that many properties and objects associated with the history of aviation in the United States are not well-identified or documented, in 2003 the National Park Service and the United States Air Force partnered to research and write a National Historic Landmarks (NHL) aviation theme study. Nearly 77,000 sites and districts throughout the United States that are significant to local, state, or national history are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Only places of exceptional national significance gain recognition as NHL. Secretaries of the Interior have recognized fewer than 2,600 properties as NHLs since the NPS created the designation in 1960.

As a part of commemorative activities for the 2003 centennial of powered flight, the NPS published several items connected with aviation history. Among these are *Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan for Wright Brothers National Memorial in North Carolina* and a National Register travel itinerary, *Aviation: From Sand Dunes to Sonic Booms*. Both the lesson plan and travel itinerary are available on the internet at [www.cr.nps.gov/nr](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr).

The Air Force, for its part, worked with the NPS to designate the Cadet Area of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a National Historic Landmark. It is working with the NPS and the Organization of American Historians to create a *Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan* about the Air Force Academy.

NHL program manager John Sprinkle, an historian with the NPS in Washington, recently started contacts with federal, state, and tribal historic preservation officials and historians. The intent is to discover whether agencies, states, and tribes are aware of nationally significant properties related to aviation history that are not listed in the National Register. The NPS will also work closely with Air Force historians and cultural resource managers to ascertain whether there are sites owned by the Air Force worthy of recognition as National Historic Landmarks. These discussions and analysis of existing lists of historic aviation properties will provide a foundation for the theme study. The results will be reviewed by a group of historians assembled through the assistance of the

Organization of American Historians and the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

By February 2005, Sprinkle hopes the theme study will propose several sites to the National Park System Advisory Board for NHL designation. He also hopes research will produce a master list of sites of significance to aviation history and a list of topics connected with aviation history that are poorly understood, such as agricultural aviation.

Greater recognition of important aviation history sites through this theme study will result in a greater understanding of the role of aviation in the country's development. To follow the progress of the study, check and follow the links to themes at

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/>. If you have questions or comments, contact Laura Shick with the NHL program in Washington at 202.354.2254.

Edward Roach

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## Ranger Jerry Hangs Up His Hat

Park Ranger Jerry Kessens has been the face of Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP at The Wright Cycle Company building for thousands of visitors throughout his ten years of service. Last year, the centennial of flight, was Ranger Jerry's last year of sharing the park's message with visitors.

Ranger Jerry, already retired from a long and successful career as a Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Navy, has concluded his service with the National Park Service. He will continue to reside in his native Fort Wayne, Indiana. Jerry has been keeping plenty busy with his family, friends, church, travels, home improvement projects, photography, and, of course, his famous holiday display composed of thousands of figurines, miniature village pieces, and model trains.



Ranger Jerry Kessens speaks to the Dayton Cycling Club at The Wright Cycle Company in 2001.

Jerry filled a special role at the park. With his robust personality and dynamic interpretive programs, Jerry became one of the most memorable and engaging interpreters in Dayton Aviation Heritage's 11-year history. In addition to being a fine steward to the visiting public, Jerry took an active role in the neighborhood and

community. All of the neighbors, partner groups, local business owners, and even delivery drivers know Ranger Jerry well.

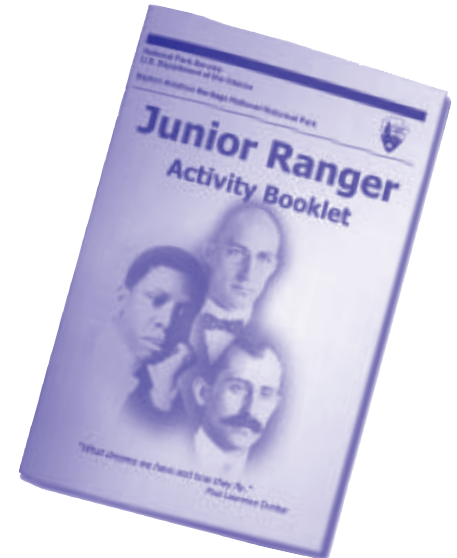
The Dayton Aviation Heritage family will miss Jerry as a friend and colleague but will remember him as a living legend.

# Junior Ranger Program

In partnership with Eastern National, the park initiated its Junior Ranger Program this winter. This popular program is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 12. A Junior Ranger Activity Booklet is available at the park's two bookstores (\$3.50 each + tax). The activities are divided into two levels, ages 6 to 8 and ages 9 to 12. There are thirteen activities. The aspiring Junior Ranger purchases the booklet while visiting either interpretive center. During the visit, they complete the required number of activities. After completing the booklet, the child brings the booklet to a uniformed Park Ranger who will check the answers. The Junior Ranger signs a pledge that states:

*"I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to help protect Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, my community and the world around me by being a steward (friend) of the environment. I will respect all living and non-living things. I will help preserve (care for) all natural, cultural and historical places for the future."*

Upon completion, the Park Ranger awards the Junior Ranger a special badge. As an extension of the program, an on-line web-ranger program is in the design stages. Visit our web page at [nps.gov/daav/](http://nps.gov/daav/) to keep informed of this and all interpretive and educational programs at the park.



## K12 Artists-in-Training Create Murals for the Wright-Dunbar Business Village

Student artists from the K12 Gallery for Young People designed and created an eleven-panel mural for the Wright-Dunbar Business Village.



For two months, students have created brightly painted images of turn-of-the-century Dayton. Streetcars, a ragtime piano player, women in big hats, and Model T's appear in vibrant colors across the 5x5 foot panels. The temporary mural will enliven a currently vacant building at the corner of Williams and West Third Street and across from the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center.

"So often, people are giving to us as a non-profit organization. This has been a unique opportunity for K12 students to give to others and use their artistic skills

as a community service," said Jerri Stanard, Executive Director of K12 Gallery for Young People.

Wright-Dunbar, Inc. is pleased to have the mural in the Wright-Dunbar Business Village. As the organization that is leading the revitalization efforts in the West Third Street Historic District, Wright Dunbar, Inc. works to recruit sustainable business to the Wright Dunbar Business Village.

Jen Stoecker



# Park's Education Program

The park's education specialist, Judi Hart, has been working on several projects to get materials on-line for teachers and students. The park's web page, [www.nps.gov/daav/](http://www.nps.gov/daav/) is currently being enhanced. In the near future, the website will include curriculum guides developed by the national park. Currently, teachers interested in teaching about historic places can visit the official "Teaching with Historic Places" web page at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp/>

"Teaching with Historic Places" programs offered in Ohio include: *Growing into Public Service: William Howard Taft's Boyhood Home* found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/15taft/15taft.htm>

*The Ohio & Erie Canal: Catalyst of Economic Development for Ohio* found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/41ohio/41ohio.htm>

*Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park: Where the Wright Brothers Conquered the Air* found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/NR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/11wrightoh/11wrightoh.htm>

Visit these sites and explore the possibilities. Make a regular visit to [nps.gov/daav/](http://www.nps.gov/daav/) to see what may appear as the site expands.

If you are interested in scheduling a school program at the park or on your campus, contact Judi Hart at 937-225-7705, ext 222 or [judi\\_hart@nps.gov](mailto:judi_hart@nps.gov)

[www.nps.gov/daav/](http://www.nps.gov/daav/)

[www.nps.gov/daav/](http://www.nps.gov/daav/)

## 2004 Dayton Aviation Heritage Speaker Series

The 2004 Speakers Series began March 25 with Lt. Colonel Charles "C.I." Williams, USAF (retired) presenting "The Tuskegee Airmen: A Brief History." His talk highlighted his experiences as a Tuskegee Airman.

Later in the season, Lester A. Reingold will be a guest speaker on Thursday, July 15 at 7:00 pm. He will present "*Triumph and Tragedy: Commemorating the Wright Legacy and Investigating the Shuttle Columbia Accident.*"

Last year, Reingold was writing a series of articles about Dayton's aviation heritage to coincide with the centennial of flight when the Shuttle accident occurred. Soon after, he joined the investigation as Lead

Editor of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

Reingold will give an insider's account of the inquiry about the accident, share his impressions of Dayton as a visiting reporter and explore the links between the two seemingly disparate stories.

Reingold is a freelance writer for publications such as *American Heritage*, *Preservation*, *Air & Space/Smithsonian*, *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. Based in the Washington, DC area, he is also a commentator for *National Public Radio*.

On Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 pm, Dr. Tom Crouch, Senior Curator at the National Air and Space Museum, will

speak on the Huffman Prairie Flying Field. In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first turn and circle made in an airplane, Dr. Crouch will outline the unique history of the Huffman Prairie Flying Field and the Wright brothers' experiments and flying at the site. Additionally, Dr. Crouch will be at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center on Saturday, September 11, for a book signing.

All speakers' series events take place at the Engineers Club of Dayton at 110 East Monument Street. They are free and open to the public. For further information, please call Ann Honious at (937) 225-7705.



# Eastern National Bookstores

## New Items Planned and Others in Stock



The 2003 ornament featuring the 1904 Wright Flyer II at Huffman Prairie Flying Field was the first ornament in a planned series by Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP. With the remodeling of The Wright Cycle Company building, it seemed appropriate to honor this unique and valuable resource on our second park ornament.

The collector's ornament will feature the image of the bicycle shop -- it is being designed in partnership with Eastern National, the non-profit organization that operates the park's two interpretive center bookstores. Proceeds will assist in enhancing the park's interpretive and educational programming. It should be available for purchase sometime in June.

The park also features a new "America's National Park's" logo for Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP that is now available on a magnet, patch, lapel pin and T-shirt. Soon we will also feature postcards with the logo. These collector items are beautifully illustrated and colorful, offering a unique way to celebrate the park. These items sell for \$2.95 to \$19.95 each.

Also new to the stores is an original print - The Bishop's Boys, Late Afternoon, May 25, 1910, Huffman Prairie, Ohio. This print features a painting by Dean Mosher (see page 3 for details). The limited full color print sells for \$75.00,

unframed. A framed print is on display at both interpretive centers.

For more items like these and a selection of memorabilia and books about the Wright brothers and Paul Laurence Dunbar, visit Eastern National gift shops at both National Park locations. They are open daily 8:30 to 5:00. Major credit cards accepted.



## Park Receives Charles S. Marshall Unit Award

Each year, Eastern National recognizes one of their national park partners with the Charles S. Marshall Unit Award. The award is named after the former National

educational activities of the National Park Service through Eastern National agency operation. Such teamwork is evidenced in agency growth, visitor service, product development, improvement and administration. This year Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP was the recipient.

The park began its partnership with Eastern National in 2002 with the opening of two new educational retail sales outlets at the park. The Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center opened in December 2002 and the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center opened in June 2003. Combined, the two outlets totaled almost \$118,000 in sales the first year. In addition to the sales operations, the Park recognized the importance of Eastern National's role in its interpretive programs and approved many new items that were instrumental in the agency's stellar sales.

Four Eastern National publications about the Wright Brothers were developed and continue to be top-sellers.

Eastern National President Chesley Moroz presented the park superintendent, Larry Blake, with the Charles S. Marshall Unit Award plaque in an award ceremony on Tuesday, February 17, 2004. "We are delighted to present this award to Dayton Aviation. Their efforts this year exemplified team work. The visitor experience at Dayton sets a new standard," said Moroz. Visitors can view the award on the wall in the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center bookstore.



Park Service Southeast Regional Director, who later served as Executive Secretary of Eastern National. The award recognizes an outstanding agency that achieved noteworthy teamwork in promoting and aiding the historical, scientific and

# Huffman Prairie Flying Field, Summer 2004

The Centennial of Flight year is past, but several centennials of significant Wright brothers' work at Huffman Prairie Flying Field will come in 2004 and 2005. The Wright brothers first started working at the flying field - then a pasture - in May, 2004. They constructed a small hangar, similar to the Kitty Hawk hangars, at the field's southwest end. With their new building constructed and their 1904 Wright Flyer II ready to fly, the brothers began to learn about flight. Early efforts were not very successful, partly due to the variable winds at the site. After several frustrating months, the Wright brothers solved the wind problem by constructing a catapult launch device. This was a wooden tower with a weight that could be hauled up to the tip of the tower. Associated with the tower was the launch rail to get the wheel-less flyer into the air. The weight had a rope attached that ran through a series of pulleys, along the launch rail and connected to the front of the flyer which sat on a trolley. The pilot had a lever to pull to release the weight, causing the flyer to be propelled forward

along the rail until it achieved enough speed for take-off. With this launch device, the Wright brothers launched their aircraft more consistently. This permitted the brothers to continue their work on learning control in flight. A full-sized replica of the catapult launch device is now on display at Huffman Prairie Flying Field next to the replica 1905 Hangar.

The replica Wright B airplane, as a static model operated by Wright "B" Flyer, Inc., returns to the flying field May through October. The schedule of hours will fluctuate although during most weeks the airplane will be exhibited on Friday and Saturday. In addition, *Time Flies* returns to the flying field. May 7-8 features a kite-making demonstration in conjunction with a kite-fly at the field. September marks the centennial of the first use of the catapult system (September 7, 1904), the world's first turn in the air (September 15, 1904), and the world's first circle ever made in the sky (September 20, 1904). In honor of these landmark events, *Time Flies* will reprise "A Matter of Balance", a



Huffman Prairie Flying Field 2004

September 23 to 26. In addition, costumed characters representing the year 1904 will bring history to life.

Jan Ferguson

## Touching History at Huffman Prairie

Activities at both Huffman Prairie Flying Field and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center move into full gear with the advent of spring and summer. New hours of operation for the flying field include Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. The flying field is closed to the public on Sundays and Wednesdays, and it may close at other times based on the operational needs of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

From May 29 through September 6, the National Park Service will offer ranger-led tours of the flying field daily at 10:30 am. The tours focus on the Wright brothers' experiments at the field (1904 and 1905), on their business operations (1910 to 1916), and on the development of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The flying field will host the replica Wright B airplane Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, weather permitting. This plane is a replica of the type flown by the Wrights from 1910 to 1916. The plane is owned by The Wright "B" Flyer Inc. The National Park Service will assist in transporting the flyer to the site and provide interpretation for visitors.

From May 29 through September 6, the park will offer special Ranger Programs at 12:30 daily at the Wright Memorial adjacent to the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center. Program subjects will vary with the ranger on duty each day. Programs may deal with the history of the Wright Memorial and the commemorative efforts in Dayton or on the environment of the Mad River Valley. Other topics include the Adena Culture

responsible for the mounds on the hill or on the flood of 1913 and its aftermath.

All of the programs are offered free of charge. For more information on the daily tours or programs and for specific hours for the Flying Field, please call the Interpretive Center at 937.425.0008.

*Check out  
the new exhibits in  
the 1905 replica hangar  
at the  
Huffman Prairie  
Flying Field  
starting in  
June 2004*

# Recycling Government Assets

For the past year, the Maintenance Division at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park has taken advantage of its local area resources and neighbors, especially the Defense Reutilization Office (DRMO) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The Maintenance Division, with four staff members led by Leonard Simpson, considers this resource an excellent “little treasure trove of goodies” to save the park money. By utilizing other government agencies’ abandoned equipment, they have saved their park and the American Taxpayer over \$15,000 in equipment that otherwise would have needed to be purchased new and at higher costs.

Steve Moyer, the Maintenance Division’s computer guru, recently acquired an outdated and non-functioning weather station computer system from DRMO. The station with the old discarded weather instruments will now provide a secure and filtered air-cooled cabinet with battery back-up and expansion capabilities for the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center’s main computer system. This provides dividends in the long term by reducing accidental damage to the equipment as well as reducing the cleaning of the computer system. Additional parts from the old system will be used in various upgrades to the Interpretive Center’s security and communications system. Others will find their way into cooling exhibit devices.

Maintenance has outfitted their staff as well as the Ranger Division with various office equipment and furnishings, storage cabinets for tools/supplies and equipment cabinets for sensitive museum computer systems. The use of DRMO by the Park has resulted in significant savings on the Park’s budget, allowing more efficient use of park funds.

Robert Stemple



# Recycling

Since December, the park’s recycling coordinator, Judi Hart, has been working to train the staff in the finer points of recycling. Currently every effort is made to separate office paper, cardboard, and beverage cans and bottles. As of March, our recycling program has resulted in a modest income of \$ 29.76 from over 1700 lbs of paper and cardboard.



## Reflections of a First-Time Park Ranger

Being a park ranger for the National Park Service isn’t as strenuous as I had imagined.

When I first answered the help wanted ad off the internet, I anticipated the possibility (all within an easy commute from my Tipp City home) of climbing canyon walls, crawling through caves, wrestling rattlesnakes, and entertaining the occasional errant alligator.

Moreover, from what I gather, many of my more experienced fellow park rangers have done just that. Being my first assigned park, Dayton Aviation Heritage, (more specifically, the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and The Wright Cycle Company building in downtown Dayton), proves to be a tamer, yet just as compelling, national park.

Rich in Wright lore, the neighborhood boasts nothing wilder than the occasional rowdy school group. So far, the time since I hired in has afforded plenty of opportunity to learn the ropes: counting cash, counting people, and putting names to faces. I’ve even learned to fold an American flag and I take personal pride in the fact that I’ve never let Old Glory hit the ground once.

My research time is spent steeping myself in Wright brothers’ and Dunbar history, so I can relay what I know to visitors in a manner that inspires them to learn more after they leave. This has been my biggest



Park Ranger Lisa Martin ready for action.

challenge, second only to balancing the cash drawer at closing.

In the time I have remaining in this seasonal position, my goal will be to focus on fashioning this research into the most palatable, intriguing, and effective presentation I can—one that will do justice to the heritage the park represents. If you are in the park and would like to hear this presentation, please join me at one of my ranger talks.

Lisa Martin

# Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

**The Wright Cycle Company Complex**  
*Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center &  
Aviation Trail Visitor Center*  
*Wright Cycle Company building*  
22 South Williams, Dayton, Ohio 45407  
PO Box 9280, Dayton, Ohio 45409  
937.225.7705 (National Park Service)  
[www.nps.gov/daav/](http://www.nps.gov/daav/)  
937.443.0793 (Aviation Trail, Inc.)  
<http://www.aviationtrailinc.org>  
Hours: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm daily  
Closed -- Thanksgiving, December 25  
& New Year's Day

**Huffman Prairie Flying Field**  
**Interpretive Center**  
2380 Memorial Road  
(opposite the Wright Memorial,  
off Kaufman Road and Route 444)  
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433  
937.425.0008 (National Park Service)  
[http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/EM/  
cultural/index.cfm?fuseaction=main  
&obj\\_id=176](http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/EM/cultural/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&obj_id=176)  
Free Admission  
Hours: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm daily  
Closed -- Thanksgiving, December 25  
& New Year's Day

**Huffman Prairie Flying Field**  
Gate 16A off of State Route 444  
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433  
Hours: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
Friday, & Saturday  
Subject to closure per base needs  
[http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/EM/  
cultural/index.cfm?fuseaction=main  
&obj\\_id=177](http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/EM/cultural/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&obj_id=177)

**Carillon Historical Park**  
*John W. Berry, Sr.*  
*Wright Brothers Aviation Center*  
1000 Carillon Blvd., Dayton, Ohio 45409  
937.293.2841  
[www.carillonpark.org](http://www.carillonpark.org)  
April 1 - Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>  
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm  
Sundays & Holidays 12:00 pm-5:00 pm  
Admission: \$5.00 Adults;  
\$4.00 Seniors;  
\$3.00 Children (3-17);  
Free to Members  
& Children under 3

**Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial**  
219 Paul Laurence Dunbar Street  
P.O. Box 1872, Dayton, Ohio 45401  
937.224.7061  
[www.ohiohistory.org/places/dunbar/](http://www.ohiohistory.org/places/dunbar/)  
Beginning May 30  
Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 9:30 am-4:30 pm  
Sunday 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
Admission: Adults \$ 5.00;  
Students /Children \$ 2.00;  
Free to children under 5 years of age.



## National Park Service Interpretive Programs



**The Wright Cycle Company Complex**  
May 1 to May 23 / September 11 to September 26  
Saturday & Sunday Only  
10:00 am Walking tour of Wright-Dunbar neighborhood  
2:00 pm Ranger Program

May 29 to September 6  
Daily Programs  
10:00 am Walking tour of Wright-Dunbar neighborhood  
2:00 pm Ranger Program

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**Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center**  
May 29 to September 6  
Daily programs  
12:30 pm Ranger Program

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**Huffman Prairie Flying Field**  
May 29 to September 6  
Programs every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday  
Cancelled if required by Wright-Patterson AFB.  
10:30 am Ranger Program

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*To arrange a Special Tour at one of our park sites, contact the site directly.*





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
  
Dayton Aviation Heritage  
National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 9280  
Dayton, Ohio 45409

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## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Dayton Aviation Heritage  
National Historical Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

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### Comments?

Write to : Superintendent  
Dayton Aviation Heritage  
National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 9280  
Dayton, Ohio 45409  
(937) 225-7705

[www.nps.gov/daav](http://www.nps.gov/daav)  
e-mail: [daav\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:daav_info@nps.gov)

# Huffman Prairie Flying Field 1904

- April 15, 1904:** Wrights complete building of a wooden shed at Huffman Prairie (Simms Station) to house their new 1904 flying machine.
- May 23, 1904:** The Wright brothers attempt several flights with their new machine at Huffman Prairie, but rain and insufficient wind prevent takeoff.
- May 26, 1904:** Orville flies about 25 feet on their next try. Between May 26 and December 9, the Wrights made 105 attempts with a total flying time of 49 minutes. These flights enable them to obtain practice in controlling and maneuvering a powered machine.
- July 30, 1904:** The Wright brothers complete the modification of their 1904 machine. The gas tank and the radiator are moved rearward, and the blade width of propellers is increased.
- August 13, 1904:** Wilbur flies 1,340 feet in 32 seconds at Huffman Prairie, breaking the previous distance record set at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
- August 23, 1904:** Katharine Wright witnesses flight for the first time at Huffman Prairie.
- September 7, 1904:** The Wrights use a catapult launching device, sometimes called the starting derrick, for the first time in launching their heavier than air machine.
- September 15, 1904:** Wilbur makes first turn in the air, a half circle.
- September 20, 1904:** Wilbur makes the first complete circle witnessed by Amos I. Root, editor and publisher of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*. Root had driven nearly 200 miles from Medina, Ohio, to see the flights.
- November 9, 1904:** Wilbur flies 5 minutes 4 seconds, a distance of 2 ¾ miles, making almost four circles of the field, the best and longest flight of the year.
- December 1, 1904:** Orville flies about 2 ¾ miles, almost four circles of the field.